

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 23 are currently pending in the application. Claims 8, 11, 13 through 17, and 20 have been amended herein. No new matter has been entered to the disclosure as the amendment clearly complies with 35 U.S.C. § 132. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended and replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A printing system, comprising:  
a printer including:  
a processor; and  
a printing component in communication with said processor; and  
a filtering program associated with said processor so as to control printing of a file by said printing component based on at least one of a presence or absence of at least one prespecified characteristic from a packet including said file.
2. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware of said printer associated with said processor.
3. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware external to said printer and in communication with said processor.
4. (Original) The printing system of claim 3, further comprising:  
a computer including said at least one of said memory device and said firmware, a processor in communication with said at least one of said memory device and said firmware, and a communication port for at least partially establishing communication between said processor of said computer and said processor of said printer.

5. (Original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein said at least one prespecified characteristic comprises at least one of an undesirable characteristic and a desirable characteristic.

6. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program causes said processor to prevent said printing component from printing a file of a packet having at least one said undesirable characteristic.

7. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print a file of a packet having said desirable characteristic.

8. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print said file only if said ~~packet lacks said~~ packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and has said desirable characteristic.

9. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said undesirable characteristic comprises one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

10. (Original) The printing system of claim 5, wherein said desirable characteristic comprises one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

11. (Currently Amended) A device-specific filtering method, comprising:  
transmitting a printing packet comprising at least one file from a source computer, across a network, to a device of said network;  
evaluating at least one prespecified characteristic of said printing packet following passage of said printing packet through a server of said network; and  
controlling at least one of further transmission of said printing packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said device based on said evaluating.

12. (Original) The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating at least one prespecified characteristic comprises evaluating at least one of an undesirable characteristic and a desirable characteristic.

13. (Currently Amended) The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises preventing said at least one of further transmission of said printing packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said device if said printing packet has at least one said undesirable characteristic.

14. (Currently Amended) The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises permitting said at least one of further transmission of said printing packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said device if said printing packet has said desirable characteristic.

15. (Currently Amended) The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises permitting said at least one of further transmission of said printing packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said printing packet by said device if said printing packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and has said desirable characteristic.

16. (Currently Amended) The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said printing packet for at least one said undesirable characteristic comprising at least one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

17. (Currently Amended) The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said printing packet for at least one said desirable characteristic comprising at least one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

18. (Original) The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating is effected by a processor of said device.

19. (Original) The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating is effected by a processor external to and in communication with a processor of said device.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for filtering a file transmitted to a destination device, comprising:  
a processor in communication with a network across which the file has been transmitted; and  
a filtering program associated with said processor so as to control at least one of transmission of a packet including at least one file to be printed to the destination device and processing of said at least one file to be printed by the destination device based on at least one of a presence or absence of at least one prespecified characteristic from said packet including said at least one file to be printed.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said processor and said memory device or said firmware are parts of the destination device.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said processor and said memory device or said firmware are parts of a computer in communication with the destination device.